

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



CALVARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022

WELCOME TO CALVARY

YOU ARE GOD'S
BELOVED,
AND YOU ARE
WELCOME HERE.

PASTOR
SHANE SICILIANO



Our Welcome Statement

Calvary United Methodist Church believes that all means all. We open our hearts, our minds and our doors to all our neighbors. We gladly invite into our shared life all persons who seek a community of support where they can grow in God's grace. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, relationship status, or background – ***you are God's beloved, and you are welcome here.***

Welcome to Calvary!

If you are a first time guest, thank you for visiting Calvary! We would invite you to check out our Welcome Tables for more information about who we are. We would also ask you to fill out a "GET CONNECTED" card in the back of the pews so we can get to know you. If you are in need of a large print bible or hymnal, please see any greeter for help.

Families with Babies or Young Children

Families with babies or young children? We have a family area in the sanctuary with rocking chairs and toys so your family can participate in the service.

How Do I Get Involved?

There are many ways you can become involved at Calvary United Methodist Church. If you have been promising yourself to join a small group experience for not just a continuing learning opportunity but also to meet new friends, please fill out a "Get Involved" card in the back of the pews. You can also email CalvaryPgh@gmail.com or visit our website at CalvaryPgh.com for information about the many ministries available. If you are ready to serve or just want to connect and grow, there are plenty of opportunities for you to use your gifts and talents.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Bible Study

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Calvary Chapel

Description: *"Affirming the Scriptures of an Affirming God"* — How can we respond when people use verses of the Bible as a weapon? We can relearn the weaponized Scriptures in defense of love. We'll be looking at the Scriptures through the lens of welcoming, affirming, and accepting all people. Feel free to bring your Bible, but we also have more Bibles available.

Sunday School

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Presbytery (Across the street from Calvary)

Update: **There will be no Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st**

Description: Calvary offers two Sunday School Classes: (1) Ages 3-10, (2) Ages 11-15. Please meet up in the chapel and everyone will walk across the street together.

Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Calvary Choir Loft

Fellowship Following Morning Worship

Time / Location: Following morning worship / Calvary Chapel

Description: Come to the chapel following morning worship for fellowship. A light array of foods and beverages will be served.

MONDAYS

Sleeping Bag Group

Time / Location: 6:30pm / Calvary Fellowship Hall

Description: The sleeping bags are made from recycled materials, packed with personal items such as toothpaste, shampoo, hats and gloves then distributed to nearby homeless shelters. The team is also working on plastic mats made from plastic grocery bags. There is plenty to do. No sewing experience needed. Please consider joining us on Monday evenings. Questions? Please contact Terri Howell at trr_howell@yahoo.com or call 412-4822211 with any questions.

TUESDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary Chapel

Description: There is an exercise class that meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00am in the Calvary Chapel.

Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 6:00-7:30pm / Calvary Choir Loft

Description: Love Singing? Thinking About Joining The Choir?... Now is the perfect time to give it a try! No audition required! All are welcome!



Poinsettia Dedications

Joanie Bova

In Memory of Rev. James and Betty DuBois

In Honor of James, Bronson, Haley, Chauncie, Courtney, of Brittany & Aaron, Megan & Dan & Phillip, and of Rev. Beth Nelson—you are a blessing

Megan Bova

In Memory of Lydia Mitchell, and of Joe Vacek, Peggi Funk, Sam & Theresa Bova, Rev Jim & Betty DuBois

In Honor of Bud & Kathy Wagner, and of Rev. Beth Nelsonn

Burns-Elliott Family

In Memory of Lucy Mae Elliott, Kenneth and Joan Elliott, and William “Keen” Miller

In Honor of Ethan and Peyton Rihn

Kim Butler

In Memory of Bill & Gerry Butler, my parents, and of Rick Butler, my late brother

In Honor of our Savior Jesus Christ

Callie Buzard

In Memory of the numerous lives lost in violence

Barb Byers & Jeff Carter

In Memory of our loved ones

In Honor of our children

Renny and Linda Clark

In Memory of of Tom & Twila Walker, of Patricia Walker, and of Gordon & Sara Clark

In Honor of of Brian Burns, of the Calvary Choir, of Aleata & Wayne Weis, of Georgia Brucker

Linda Ehrlich

In Memory of Florence & William Andrews, and of anyone lost to gun violence

In Honor of Hardy & Ehrlich grandchildren

Karen Ferguson

In Memory of Elizabeth and Ronald Ferguson, and of Camille Helwich

In Honor of my niece, Johanna Mae McCrea, and of my grandparents, Ron and Mary Frank

*It came, a floweret bright, to show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior.*

Judy and Tom Flaherty

In Memory of Mary Flaherty

In Honor of Jean Kraft

David Grinnell

In Memory of Kenneth & Betty Grinnell, of David & Iva Johnson, of John Lyon, Calvary Member
& Allegheny City Society President, of Rev. Robert F. Richards, and of all those who lost
their lives to gun violence

In Honor of of The Choir & Brian Burns, of Rev Shane Siciliano, and of Margee, Mary & Nancy
(AHPS)

Lorraine Malcolm

In Honor of all the clergy of Calvary, and of the entire staff & volunteers of Calvary

Brittany and Aaron Mickens

In Memory of Richard Mickens, Aaron's father, and of all of the youth I have served whose
lives were cut short due to gun violence

In Honor of our children, Courtney, Chauncie, James & Haley

Dennis Panek

In Memory of Genevieve and Walter Panek

Nancy Richards

In Memory of Rev. Bob Richards

In Honor of Audrey & Tatum Arbuckle, our granddaughters

David Rizzo

In Memory of Rita and Louis Rizzo

Fred Ruddock

In Memory of Charles Thomas

In Honor of Kathryn Ruddock

Jane Skerl

In Memory of my parents, William, and Phyllis Lauster

In Honor of People of Ukraine, of my friends Jeanne & Sheila, and of Charlie

Aleata and Wayne Weis

In Honor of Aimee & Adrianna Weis-Carbonara, and of Aiden Weis

Sally Westerman

In Memory of of Ron Westerman

Kathy Winne

In Memory of of Steve & Helen Sturey, and of James Sturey

In Honor of People of Ukraine

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude 4:30pm Service — Calvary UMC Handbell Choir
7:00pm Service — Jennifer Steele (*Flute*), David Bennett (*Cello*), David Bridge (*Piano*)

Processional Hymn †* “O Come, All Ye Faithful” — #234 UMH

Community Greetings †

Children’s Message

Unison Prayer †. Lay Leader—Kenny Elliott
O God, as we begin the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves to experience its true meaning. Let us hear in lessons of Scripture how prophets and the everyday folk would be visited and redeemed by your gift of grace. Let us rejoice in our carols and hymns that the good purpose of God will be experienced and shared. And let us celebrate the promise that our babe in Bethlehem would fulfill the proclamation of thy eternal glory here on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.

Hymn † “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” — #240 UMH

Scripture Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV
2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Anthem “Christmas Adoration” — The Renewal Choir

Gospel † Luke 2:1-20 NRSV
1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Homily

Hymn † “O Little Town of Bethlehem” — #230 UMH

Invitation to Holy Communion

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy God, We admit—we don’t fully understand the Christmas story.

All: **We are not familiar with angel choruses.**

Leader: We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

All: **and we don’t always hear your voice in our dreams.**

Leader: We don’t fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

All: **we whisper this good news.**

Leader: Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

All: **we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.**

Leader: Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,

All: **we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.**

Leader: Forgive us for our silence.

All: **Forgive us for our hesitation.**

Leader: Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

All: **Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.**

† Please stand as you are able / Bold text is unison
Order of Worship continued on following page

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Words of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, repeat after me: No matter where we go,
All: **No matter where we go,**
Leader: No matter what we say,
All: **No matter what we say,**
Leader: No matter what we do,
All: **No matter what we do,**
Leader: We belong to God.
All: **We belong to God.**
Leader: We are held.
All: **We are held.**
Leader: We are loved.
All: **We are loved.**
Leader: We are forgiven.
All: **We are forgiven. Amen.**

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Doxology † "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" — #94 UMH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Offering Prayer †

Holy Communion Liturgy †

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to raise our voices with you, tuning ourselves to you, creator of heaven and earth. You filled the night of creation with music and light, setting in motion the rhythms of sunrise and sunset, of sound and silence. You formed within us your love song and breathed into us the breath of life.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Sometimes our voices are choked off and we cannot find your melody. But you keep the bass line humming, waiting for us to rejoin the chorus. You show up in the worst of times offering us the way to freedom in you. Your voice breaks through in prophets whose songs wake us up to the kin-dom you desire.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

(Please be seated)

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Breaking forth into light from the blessed darkness of a womb, he brought light that illumined a path so we could see our way to more beloved community.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us your love and light so that our hearts may be broken open for the world and our lives poured out in service.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Mix our voices in harmony with each other until we sit at the same table and sing in the same choir in your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

† *Please stand as you are able / Bold text is unison*
Order of Worship continued on following page

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

The Lord’s Prayer #895 UMH
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer for Those in Communion from Afar
We who are many are one body, one loaf, rising in Spirit together. Even if we cannot be physically in the same space, we are one in love. We are one in the grace of Christ broken open for us.

Anthem “Glory to God in the Highest Heaven” — The Renewal Choir

Receiving Holy Communion All are welcome!

Post-Communion Prayer

Lighting the Christ Candle and Sharing the Light of Christ

Hymn † “Silent Night” — #239 UMH

Sending Forth
We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.
We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on—to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.
I believe my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this story can make a difference, so I will not stay quiet.
I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all.
I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.
I will live this story—because love has come again.
I believe that words have power.
I will not stay quiet.
Amen.

Hymn † “Joy to the World” — #246 UMH

† Please stand as you are able / Bold text is unison

CALVARY'S FAMILY CORNER

UPCOMING FREE EVENTS 2023

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Movie is to be determined, but we will encourage families and church members to wear pjs and bring pillows/blankets for a true movie night feel!

**FRI
JAN
13**

**SAT
FEB
11**

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

12 PM – 2 PM

**SUN
MAR
12**

MORE INFO - MEGAN 412-715-4946 / BRITTANY 412-715-4947

CALVARY — A BRIEF HISTORY

Christ Methodist Episcopal Church was one of Pittsburgh's largest churches during the late 1800's. The church was located on Penn Avenue and Hancock Street (now 8th Street) in downtown Pittsburgh.

On May 5, 1891, tragedy struck when fire destroyed Christ Methodist Church and the adjacent Pittsburgh Female College were destroyed by fire. Following the disaster, the congregation used the Bijou Theater for Sunday services.

On May 28, 1891, three weeks after the fire, the Trustees decided to rebuild the church... but where? This quote from the minutes of that meeting set the wheels in motion, "*We refuse to rebuild in the midst of dirty, filthy Pittsburgh.*" The congregation decided to split and move to the "suburbias". A fourth of the congregation built Calvary in Allegheny City, now Pittsburgh's North Side). The other members built our sister church, First United Methodist Church in Shadyside. The remaining, only 154 people, pulled together their resources and raised over \$245,000 (almost \$6.2 million in today's dollars) to build a church of their own. In 1891 they bought a duck pond and a skating rink in Allegheny City which is the very land that Calvary United Methodist Church is sitting on today.

Calvary's organizers were prominent in commercial and professional activities of Pittsburgh. The first Board of Trustees included Joseph Horne, CB Shea, the Jones family, and the Scaife family. Joseph Horne, founder of Horne's department stores, was the chair of the Trustees for Calvary. Sadly he passed away a year and a half before the sanctuary was opened. CB Shea, Horne's financial partner, gave a personal note in the amount of \$62,000 for Calvary's construction. The Jones family, of Jones & Laughlin Steel, was responsible for the building of the Hot Metal Bridge. The Scaife Family were heirs to the Mellon banking, oil, and aluminum fortune.

The Trustees hired architect Thomas B. Wolfe. Born and raised in nearby Sewickley, Wolfe had worked for the Heinz family. He was sent to France for inspiration and returned with drawings that contained designs of the 13th Century Gothic Cathedral at Chartres, France. He designed Calvary as a "Parlor" Cathedral. A "Parlor" Cathedral is patterned after European cathedrals but only 1/10th the size. In spring 1892, the Trustees also hired Louis Comfort Tiffany, a young, up-and-coming artist. They contracted him to create 189 windows for \$15,770 (almost \$400,000 in today's dollars.) This was Tiffany's largest and most expensive commission at the time. When the windows were installed in 1895, Calvary had three of the largest Tiffany windows in the world.

Bishop Fowler laid the cornerstones for both Calvary and its sister church in Shadyside on May 18, 1893. Although the first service at Calvary United Methodist Church was held on Christmas Eve 1893 in the chapel, the sanctuary would not be finished for another two years. The building was completed in June of 1895.

